

Date: Mon, 10 Oct 94 04:30:23 PDT
From: Ham-Equip Mailing List and Newsgroup <ham-equip@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Ham-Equip-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Ham-Equip@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: List
Subject: Ham-Equip Digest V94 #364
To: Ham-Equip

Ham-Equip Digest Mon, 10 Oct 94 Volume 94 : Issue 364

Today's Topics:

 HT DUALBANDS/W21
 HT Opinions: Kenwood vs Yaesu
 Kenwood TM 733a Question
 Mods for Icom IC-3200A
 Problem With Ft2200 Display
 RF Spectrum Analyzer Adventure
 TEST EQUIPMENT- INDUCTANCE MEASURING

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Send subscription requests to: <Ham-Equip-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

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(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/ham-equip".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: Sun, 09 Oct 94 15:10:10
From: kn4aq.gary@mms.raleigh.nc.us
Subject: HT DUALBANDS/W21

Ne> I am looking at ICOM W21AT which
Ne> has a nice telephone style mechanism to allow you to talk without using
Ne> the PTT.

This is a feature with VERY LIMITED utility. In "Whisper Mode," the
transmitter is turned on continuously, the mic audio is switched to a
second mic in the bottom of the battery, and the speaker audio is reduced.

When using this mode, you must be talking to another dual-band radio, and
you are in full "crossband-duplex" mode. You have to hold the radio up to
your ear, and use it like a telephone handset. Unless you're using the
15 milliwatt power level, you'd be chewing up batter power pretty fast.

Another point about the W21 -- the speaker audio output is poor -- it's impossible to hear the radio in even moderately noisy settings without holding it up to your ear (or using an earphone). Other than that, it's a pretty good radio.

73, Gary KN4AQ

___ Blue Wave/QWK v2.12

Date: Sun, 9 Oct 1994 01:46:09 GMT
From: steve@vigra.com (Steve Haehnichen)
Subject: HT Opinions: Kenwood vs Yaesu

=> On Sat, 8 Oct 1994 13:00:17 GMT, crumrine@crsgil.erenj.com (MDCRUMR Crumrine) said:

> I have been looking at HTs and have come down to these two brands,
> and would seek Net Wisdom. On the Kenwood side I like the new TH79A,
> I'm not sure on the Yaesu, maybe the FT-530? I would be real
> interested in hearing personal experiences. What are some of the
> good features and bad/lack of features of each?

[Disclaimer: I'm still new at this myself, and quite wet behind the ears. There's probably more than a few opinions here that will change with experience.]

If you've narrowed it down to 78A, 79A or FT-530, you're pretty well done. Between these, let your own personal preference be your guide. They're all laden with more features than most folks use, so unless there is one specific feature you must have, it's a toss up. Price is close enough between them that local/seasonal deals will make the difference there.

Pretty much, let your own whim be your guide. I don't think there's any one overriding thing that makes one radio clearly better than the others. I have a FT-530, but it could have gone either way. I was totally new to the hobby when I bought it, and these are the incorrect assumptions I made:

- "All these features are neat."
I spent an evening figuring out all the details on Paging/DTMF squelch, and I've never used it once since. Others may use it often.

- "The keypad and direct entry will get used often."
This is what steered me from the 78A to the FT-530. I didn't like the keyboard cover and small buttons. Turns out that I don't use the keys much now that the memories are all programmed up. Before putting the radio on the belt, I need to turn on Keylock or the buttons get pressed. Perhaps the 78A-style keyboard cover would have been better.
- "I need lots of memory slots."
Naw.. Keeping track of 20 repeaters is about all I can handle right now. I'm having more fun hanging out on a select few than trying to be everywhere.
- "Cross-band repeat is really useful."
Never used it. For some, this might be an essential feature of the radio. For me, it's not necessary. My mobil rig does it, and with more power. Never needed that one either. YMMV.
- "It can double as a mobile rig."
What a hassle. I installed an antenna, got the 12v cigarette plug, and then needed an external speakermike to make it manageable. It's enough trouble that I didn't set it up except for long rides. If you're looking to use it frequently from the car, think hard.
- "Gotta get 800MHz receive."
Yeah, I admit it. If you think this too, well, you'll probably get over it as soon as you achieve it. Everyone I've talked to about their first radio purchase admitted this is a key feature. It must be the lure of the Forbidden Band.
That said, the FT-530 is a pretty poor 800MHz receiver. It's got lousy sensitivity, and the scanning step is wrong. If you want a scanner, buy one.
- "Intermod bad, and unavoidable."
I'm going to go out on a limb here and say that this really hasn't been a problem for me, even here in crowded San Diego. I even had to ask someone to explain to me what intermod is, since I don't seem to have that problem. It's just interference that might be avoided on a better radio. Personally, I don't do much with the HT that isn't either short-range or to a convenient repeater, so I don't run into it much. Again, Your Mileage May Vary.
Most folks agree that there isn't any significant difference between the three radios as far as intermod.

Battery life **is** important, and the auto-Rx saver is great. After some silence, it polls the signal every now and then instead of all the time. It **drastically** extends the standby battery life. Tx saver is less useful, since it can decrease your signal for the wrong

reasons. I don't know if the Kenwoods have similar features.

As far as I know, the FT-530 is the only one with an internal voltmeter, which I really like. The 79A has that nice matrix display, but it lacks channel lock-out for scanning. The 78A has made lots of folks happy too.

So, try to think ahead as to what you will most often be doing with your HT, and then dive in and take your pick.

Happy Hacking!
-Steve

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Date: 9 Oct 1994 15:21:06 -0400
From: wwhitby@aol.com (Wwhitby)
Subject: Kenwood TM 733a Question

I am thinking about purchasing one of the Kenwood Tm733a dual band mobile radios that are now available. I have followed the dirty PL tone issue in the past, but the question I have relates to the detachable face plate. Can I purchase a kit to remote mount the faceplate (head?) of the radio away from the body of the TX? I have a small car and need a small radio with a detachable head and a TX I can put under the seat.

Any help will be gratefully appreciated,

tnx & 73s de KE4ITL
Warren Whitby
wwhitby@aol.com

Date: 8 Oct 1994 19:13:19 GMT
From: smitty@azol.com (Bruce Smith)
Subject: Mods for Icom IC-3200A

Hello,

I'm looking for any mods for the Icom IC-3200A mobile dual-band radio. If you have any or know where I can find it please drop me a line..

Thanks and 73, Smitty smitty@azol.com

Date: Sat, 8 Oct 94 17:03:00 -0500
From: mike.bush@capefear.com (Mike Bush)
Subject: Problem With Ft2200 Display

--> Mike Bush Quotes a message written by
--> to All on 10-07-94 8:14 saying:
e> Organization: University of Illinois at Urbana
e>
e> I'm having an intermittent problem with the display on my Ya
e> radio. Occasionally, when I turn on the radio, all the LCD seg
e> lit, or some miscellaneous ones are lit - the display looks "sc
e> The radio continues to function normally - I can transmit and r
e> the frequency that is set. I sometimes can return the display
e>
e> pressing the F/W key, and sometimes by turning the radio on and
e>
e> Has anyone else seen this problem?
e>
e> 73
e>
e> -Steve-
e> N9XDC
e>
e>

Steve,
My name is Mike Bush and I am a radio technician at Communication
Headquarters, Inc. in Wilmington, N.C.. I work on those radios
daily. I have talked to the members of the yaesu service dept. and have found
that there is not a correction yet available.

I have a correction that has not yet failed on over 20 rigs that I have
applied it to. I have placed a small single strand of 26 or 28(maybe even 30)
gauge wire behind the contacts in the connector on the display head. This
provides pressure on the contacts ensuring good connections of the LCD
driver(Including Grounds).

Let me know how it works out, or give me a call for further explanation of
my procedures. My work number is 1-910-791-8885.
We have a 1-800-688-0073, but that is our order line and it doesn't go in the back
where the techs work.

73's mike N3DJT

--- RoboBOARD/FX 1.04
* Cape Fear BBS -exTENSive HAM Support-

Date: 7 Oct 94 20:11:11 -0500
From: jlbowman@indyvax.iupui.edu
Subject: RF Spectrum Analyzer Adventure

I am on a quest to locate a RF spectrum analyzer with an ideal coverage 35-1200+. Does anyone have experience with this type of equipment and suggestions? So far I have only collected limited info on the Standard CCR708A and Icom R9000. This spans the price range I have in mind.
Thanks in advance,
Jeffrey.....AA9GP

Date: Sun, 9 Oct 1994 14:31:39 GMT
From: milcom@netcom.com (wayne roberts)
Subject: TEST EQUIPMENT- INDUCTANCE MEASURING

Ranson J. Pelt (pelt@vt.edu) wrote:
: Can anyone give me some advice on a good piece of equipment for measuring
: inductances. I have an LCR meter (LCR 195) which I purchased from Alpha
: Elec. several years ago. This meter works great for measuring capacitance
: but just doesn't get it for measuring small inductances (uh range).

Grab an ARRL handbook & read the section on inductance. It gives formulas for calculating inductance from length, diameter & number of turns. It also gives methods of checking inductors with a grid dip meter.

Of course if you have a hundered K to spare you can get an HP8753C vector network analyzer. In smith chart format when sweeping in the 100khz to 1mhz range, it will read inductances as low as you can make them. Its also great for checking permability of core's 'n stuff, plus hundereds of other things.

Date: 9 Oct 1994 13:08:01 -0400
From: wdeegan@cpcug.org (William Deegan)

References<Cx45xE.8ts@inmet.camb.inmet.com> <36vkme\$293@server.btg.com>,
<thooker.57.0008E78E@ps1.nmsu.edu>
Subject: Re: FT-530 VOX / mic compatibility

I hope the following will help some. I have built and use a VOX microphone which consists of a 2.1K resistor in series with a Radio Shack (270-090) microphone element. I simply used a circuit much like what they show for the packet connection.

I do not use any connection to the speaker side. Good luck !

73, Bill, AD3S

End of Ham-Equip Digest V94 #364
